



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Houston Community College, TX

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

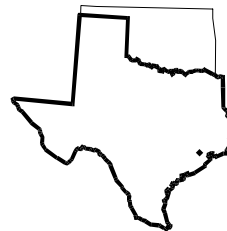
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Houston Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The community college's Brownfields Assessment Pilot partner is the City of Houston. The Job Training Pilot will target the East End and Palm Center communities located within Houston's federal Enhanced Enterprise Community (population 102,000). The East End area is comprised almost entirely of Hispanic residents. The annual income per person in this area is \$5,945, and 71 percent of the adult residents do not have a high school diploma. The Palm Center area is comprised almost entirely of African-Americans. The annual income per person in this area is \$7,596, and 44 percent of the adult residents do not have a high school diploma.

The City of Houston is home to hundreds of inner-city brownfields. Over 490 acres of brownfields have been entered into the city's Brownfields Redevelopment Program. The Milby Bus Bar, a well-known brownfield in the East End, has already been cleaned up and made ready for redevelopment at a cost of \$7 million. The extreme distress of the East

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Houston Community
College, Texas*

Date of Announcement:
May 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 100 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from the Hispanic community of East End and the African-American community of Palm Center, both of which are located in Houston's Federal Enhanced Enterprise Community.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

End and Palm Center communities and the city's cleanup and redevelopment activities in these two communities indicate a need for environmental training.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Houston Community College plans to train 100 students, achieve a 75 percent placement rate, and track graduates for one year after completion of the training. Participants will be recruited from disadvantaged Latino and African-American communities in Houston's federal Enhanced Enterprise Community. The Pilot training program will consist of a comprehensive 210-hour environmental technician training program, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies. Graduates will receive an environmental technician certification, and internships from local environmental companies are available.

The training efforts of Houston Community College will be supported by organizations such as the East End Chamber of Commerce, League of United Latin American Citizens, Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board, Environmental Educational Services, Inc., and Onsite Environmental Staffing. The broad-based Land Redevelopment Committee will serve as an advisory body for the Pilot.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit disadvantaged residents of the East End and Palm Center communities;
- Conducting environmental technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of graduates for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.